

Let me tell you about a couple of radical ideas he had. He believes that we should keep guns out of the hands of felons and people who are mentally unable. Well, there is a radical idea when it comes to gun safety, so radical that 84 percent of the American people—some say 90 percent of the American people, including a majority of gun owners—support this idea, and so does Mr. Chipman. That makes him a radical in the eyes of some of our colleagues. To me, he is as mainstream as they come.

When it comes to assault weapons, for example, he believes there are some guns that really have no place in the ordinary self-defense, sporting, and hunting world and can only be used as machines for killing. Over half the American people happen to agree with him. I do too. For that reason, many Republicans oppose him. They say, "He's a radical, he's a zealot." I have heard all these words.

He is a man who has lived his life through the ATF for more than 20 years. He has the support of law enforcement and deserves a chance to lead this Agency.

These ideas that he has—wouldn't it be wonderful if the U.S. Senate—think about that—the U.S. Senate could pass legislation to require background checks to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons? The American people want it. We can't touch it.

You ask people on the committee, on the Republican side: Well, what should we do about gun violence? They have got an answer. What is their answer? We need more guns in America. We need more people carrying guns in America. Two or three of the members of the committee today on the Republican side, Senate Judiciary Committee, were proud to speak about this issue of concealed carry. One actually said she carries a gun. I don't know if she does it in the Capitol Building. That is her business. But that is how far it has come, this notion that the solution to gun violence is more guns when 109 people a day are dying in America from gun violence. This isn't happening in other nations around the world. We are unique, and we should be embarrassed by this unique situation that we have so much gun violence and gun death in America.

President Biden made it clear yesterday as well that this notion that he is for defunding the police is ludicrous. He called yesterday for billions of dollars to our police to do their job more effectively, and I support it. I want to make sure that the police who receive these funds are well trained and administer justice in a fair way and without the abuses that we have seen with the death of George Floyd and other instances.

Yes, invest in that, but have the wisdom to understand that the police need helping hands as well. The police would gladly give the issue of domestic violence over to social workers and psychologists, who really could get into

this situation and find an effective solution that doesn't risk lives and doesn't endanger the lives of the police. They need a helping hand, and we should give it to them.

When it comes to law and order, I hear the Republican leader come to the floor and talk about the need for law and order, and I can't help but think it was just 2 weeks ago when he was given a chance to support a bipartisan commission to look into the worst lawlessness we have seen in the U.S. Capitol since 1813.

On January 6, 2021, thousands coming from the speech by President Trump formed an insurrectionist mob and descended on this Capitol. I will never forget that day as long as I live, and, yes, we ought to get to the bottom of it. Who financed that? Who planned that? Who was behind that? There are serious questions to be asked and answered. Who stopped the bill with the filibuster for a bipartisan commission asking and answering those questions? The same Senator who was coming here a few minutes ago giving a speech on law and order. It doesn't follow.

If Senator MCCONNELL believes we should have law and order, it should start with the Senate Chamber and the Capitol Building. Isn't that our first responsibility as elected Members? Of course it is. What happened January 6 cannot and should not be swept under the rug.

It is interesting to me, as I consider the nominees of the Biden administration and the reaction on the Republican side. Mr. Chipman was the latest victim of their attacks. Some on the political extreme even went so far as to doctor films so that it reflected the presence of Mr. Chipman at events he didn't even attend, events he had no business with as a member of ATF. That is the extent they will go to undermine the Biden administration's nominees.

And I can't help but notice that when it comes to assertive women of color, that really drives many Republicans to a level of rage. Vanita Gupta. Kristen Clarke. These women are extremely talented, professional women with amazing resumes who are now luckily serving this Nation because of a vote in the Senate, but the opposition to them went way beyond anything that was rational or explainable.

Senator MCCONNELL said we shouldn't make ownership of guns more burdensome. I think that is generally right, but if making sure that convicted felons don't own guns is a slight burden on those who are legally entitled to own guns, I think it is not too much to ask.

I am all for people exercising their Second Amendment rights to use guns safely, respectfully, follow the law, and store them, as well, in that same fashion, and to ask them to go through a background check to make sure they are qualified is not too much, and it saves lives in the process.

The gun lobby tries to stop the Senate from confirming the Director of the

ATF, but we are going to move forward and do it. There wasn't a Senate-confirmed Director under President Trump. In fact, there hasn't been one since 2015. This man, Mr. Chipman, is extremely well qualified—25 years of experience. He worked in the field in Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. He knows the Agency inside and out. He is the right person.

Background checks—is that too much to ask? I don't think so. We should pass the bill. In March, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, a bipartisan bill to close the gaps in the background checks system. We ought to do the same.

Addressing gun violence is a top priority of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, the committee has already held four hearings on the topic. The first was the day after the mass shooting—the most recent mass shooting in Boulder, CO, that left 10 people dead. Sadly, unimaginably—listen to this number, Mr. President—that was just one of 299 mass shootings in America so far this year. That is more than one mass shooting every single day. What is going on? How can we tolerate that situation in our country?

Yet, during the first hearing on gun violence in our committee, one of the Republican members of the committee described the hearing as "ridiculous theater." Ridiculous theater. Do you want to know what ridiculous theater really looks like? It is filibustering a piece of gun safety reform like universal background checks supported by 90 percent of the people. It is calling for an enforcement of gun laws already on the books and blocking anyone from being confirmed who will do it. Ridiculous theater is tweeting slogans in response to a spike in gun violence rather than coming up with solutions.

The Presiding Officer knows as well as I do and maybe even better that there have been too many funerals, too many lives lost to the scourge of gun violence. Can we get serious for one moment on a bipartisan basis and dedicate ourselves to reducing gun violence and saving lives in America? We have a President who is ready to lead us in that direction. I hope my other colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join Democrats in enacting legislation to keep America safe.

I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING FATHER RAY DOHERTY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are some people who leave an indelible mark on your life, from the moment you meet them. On June 7, the Saint Michael's College community lost one such person with the passing of Father Raymond Doherty. As an alumnus of Saint Michael's College, I was shaped by the academic experience and lasting tight-knit community that a small college provides and will always feel a deep connection to the school. As a fellow alumnus, Father Doherty was a

pillar of the Saint Michael's community and played a fundamental role in guiding and molding not only the College but its students for decades.

Raymond J. Doherty was born and raised in Newton, MA, and in 1948 he enrolled as a student at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT, a journalism student and skilled pitcher on the varsity baseball team. Upon his graduation in 1951, Father Doherty served his country as a staff sergeant and combat correspondent in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean war.

In 1953, Father Doherty returned to Vermont and joined the Society of Saint Edmund at the Edmundite Novitiate in Putney, where he took his first vows in 1954. Father Doherty was ordained into the priesthood in 1958 at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Burlington, VT. As an Edmundite priest, Father Doherty spent the subsequent decades working throughout Vermont, New England, and across the South during the civil rights era, where he preached, served the community, and worked to further the cause of social justice.

Although his assignments pulled him to different corners of the globe, his home was always Saint Michael's. After many terms as a member of the staff and Campus Ministry at Saint Michael's throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Father Doherty returned permanently to Saint Michael's in 1985. His career at Saint Michael's spanned a variety of roles in the admissions office, athletics department, and as campus chaplain. Until his passing, Father Ray, as he was affectionately known, remained deeply involved on the Saint Michael's campus and in the surrounding community.

He leaves behind a life and legacy that should be an inspiration to many. Father Ray, through his compassion, humility, and commitment to serving his community, exemplifies what it means to be a Vermonter and a true leader. He led by example and inspired his students and those around him to strive to understand and address the needs and circumstances of all, to lead with grace, and to tirelessly work to improve the lives of others.

Father Ray once told me that when the time came for him to be called home, he hoped to fall asleep here and wake up there. That stuck with me. It is a comfort to know that wish came true. Like the extended Saint Michael's College community, I will miss Father Doherty. His legacy will live on in the students he taught, the lives he impacted, and the words he preached. Father Ray will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO BOB GRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of a longtime friend and advocate for dairy farmers in Vermont and across the country, Bob Gray. As he retires later this month, he leaves an enduring im-

print on Vermont's bedrock agricultural sector.

I first met Bob in 1978 when he joined the staff of Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, who passed away in 2014. Bob and Jim were an unstoppable force, pushing in the late seventies for Federal legislation that eventually became the 1981 federal Farmland Protection Policy Act. Bob understood the growing urgency of protecting the Nation's working landscapes from development, fragmentation, and speculation—and especially for rural States like Vermont. He also understood that, so long as farmers had a voice and a seat at the table, conservation and agriculture could be mutually reinforcing, not adversarial.

Bob's love for the land and those who steward it comes naturally, having been raised on a dairy farm in Cayuga County, NY. After earning his bachelor of science degree in animal science at Cornell University, he served the Nation as an Army officer in the First Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, KS, before joining the New York National Guard and serving for 3 more years, rising to the rank of captain.

Since 1990, Bob has led the Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives, a trade association representing dairy farmers in Vermont and the region. Throughout the decades of challenging policy discussions and many farm bills, I could always count on Bob to provide me with sound counsel, always keeping the interests of Vermont's dairy farmers first and foremost. That counsel has always been especially important to me during challenging years for dairy, like this one has been. Dairy farmers across the United States are much stronger than they would now be were it not for Bob Gray's work.

Bob's immeasurable contributions to the dairy industry and our decades-long friendship are strong enough that I have welcomed him to join me at farm shows and agricultural fairs in New England, despite his unmitigated and puzzling cheerleading for the New York Yankees.

When Bob announced his retirement, I made sure to join his final board meeting with the Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives. The farmers whom he has worked with and industry leaders who have relied on his expertise, including myself, will certainly feel his absence and miss his kindness. Beyond his advocacy, Bob has always been a good friend to Marcelle and me for so many years—something we will always cherish. As he embarks on this next and exciting part of his life, I want to acknowledge Bob's work and thank him for his decades of support for Vermont's dairy farmers and the U.S. dairy industry and wish him the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING WDEV RADIO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, lost in the continuously emerging world of social media is the iconic bedrock of

community news: radio. I would like to take a moment to celebrate a milestone in Vermont radio: 90 years on the air for WDEV. At 5:50 in the morning of Thursday July 16, 1931, the broadcasters at WDEV turned on their microphones for the very first time. Ninety years later, WDEV remains a Vermont institution, bringing colorful conversation, sports commentary, and great music to thousands of listeners every day. Growing up in Central Vermont, I have always enjoyed tuning in to WDEV. Throughout my time in the Senate, I have spoken to anchors and morning show hosts at WDEV more times than I can recall.

WDEV has been independently owned and operated by Radio Vermont since 1935. Radio Vermont was founded by Lloyd Squier, who ran the company for 44 years, until his death in 1979. From then until 2017, Lloyd's son, Ken, has been at the helm. Beginning in 1966, Ken has hosted the Saturday morning classic and a personal favorite: "Music To Go To The Dump By." Ken still cohosts the program—what he calls the "children's program for adults." "Music To Go To The Dump By" provides a fun, thoughtful and light-hearted weekly digest of the goings-on throughout the State, with commentary from its panel of hosts and their wide array of guests.

Whether it is "Music To Go To The Dump By," the "Vermont Viewpoint," or a race at Thunder Road, we Vermonter can always turn to WDEV for fresh and interesting programming that keeps us all smiling, engaged, and informed. While it is certainly challenging to catch a broadcast from here in the Nation's Capital, I am eager to listen in once I am back home in a few weeks' time. Congratulations to WDEV and the team at Radio Vermont on 90 years of community radio. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to calling in soon.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN274, the nomination of David H. Chipman, of Virginia, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.